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ABSTRACT

This study examines the responses of the 1,474 students who withdraw from Los Angeles City College during the spring semesters of 1973, 1974, and 1975, and who completed the exit questionnaire. In spring 1975, 65 percent of the withdrawees were of non-Caucasian background, and 46 percent were male. About 40 percent of the males, and 20 percent of the females were in their first semester; and about 15 percent of the males, and 25 percent of the females were in their fourth semester or later. About 48 percent of the withdrawees had not been employed during the spring 1975 semester. Only about 26 percent were employed full-time. About 40 percent of the spring 1975 withdrawees indicated that they planned to transfer to a four-year college; 25 percent said they did not intend to transfer; and 33 percent were not sure. These proportions have been about the same for the last four years. Corresponding figures for the entire student body were 69 percent, 11 percent, and 19 percent respectively. About 97 percent of the withdrawees felt that they were adequately served by the college, and about half expected to return. The most often stated reason for withdrawal was going to work full-time, followed by personal problems. Data are organized into tables, and the withdrawal questionnaire is appended. (Author/NHM)

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ED118200

LOS ANGELES CITY COLLEGE

"SOME CHARACTERISTICS OF STUDENTS WHO WITHDREW FROM L.A.C.C. SPRING 1975, SPRING 1974, AND SPRING 1973"

Research Study #76-2

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JC 760 127

Vance Stine
Research Office
February, 1976

"SOME CHARACTERISTICS OF STUDENTS WHO WITHDREW FROM L.A.C.C. SPRING 1975, SPRING 1974, AND SPRING 1973"

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

To identify reasons for students' withdrawing from college before the end of a semester and to compare certain characteristics of withdrawing students (e.g., sex, ethnic background, age, employment) with those of the entire student body.

PROCEDURE OF THE STUDY

Students (day) withdrawing from the college are required to obtain the signature of a counselor before official withdrawal is granted. This exit interview permits the counselor to make sure the student understands the effects of his withdrawal and procedures for returning to the college at a later date. A prepared form (copy appended) is completed by the student as part of this exit interview. Analysis of these completed instruments constitutes the procedure for this study.

FINDINGS

354 students completed withdrawal forms during the Spring 1975 semester, compared with 499 for Spring 1974, and 621 for Spring 1973.

Table 1 shows the distribution of these students according to sex and ethnic background. Tables 1a and 1b permit comparison of these distributions for the respective years and with the total college student body.

FINDINGS (continued)

Tables 2 through 8a summarize responses to questions asked on the exit interview form, subanalyzed by sex and ethnic background, and compared (where information is available) with the entire student body. In Tables 8, 8a, and 9a information was included about withdrawees during the Spring 1972 semester (from Research Study #73-10).

Table 9 presents in rank order, for the total and each subgroup, the stated reasons for withdrawal for Spring 1975. Table 9a presents a comparison of the rank orders for Spring 1975, 1974, and 1973.

Figures indicating most recent available statistics for all day students are taken from Research Studies #72-5, 73-1, 73-10, 70-7, and 75-9.

TABLE 1 - Number of Withdrawals from LACC by Sex and Ethnic Background, Spring 1975, Spring, 1974, Spring 1973

	Spring 1975			Spring 1974			Spring 1973		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Black	48	57	105	71	68	139	68	97	165
Caucasian	63	64	127	87	98	185	126	121	247
Mexican-American	12	13	25	22	17	39	21	20	41
Oriental	16	33	49	35	37	72	54	39	93
Other	24	24	48	30	34	64	40	35	75
TOTAL	163	191	354	245	254	499	309	312	621

TABLE 1a - Ethnic Distribution (in percents)

	Spring 1975			Spring 1974			Spring 1973			All LACC Spring 1975
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
Black	29.5	29.9	29.7	29.0	26.8	27.9	22.0	31.1	26.6	32.3
Caucasian	38.7	33.5	35.8	35.5	38.6	37.1	40.8	38.8	39.8	34.6
Mexican-American	7.4	6.8	7.0	9.0	6.7	7.8	6.8	6.4	6.6	15.4
Oriental	9.8	17.3	12.6	14.3	14.6	14.4	17.5	12.5	15.0	15.1
Other	14.7	12.6	13.6	12.2	13.4	12.8	12.9	11.2	12.1	2.7
TOTAL	163	191	354	245	254	499	309	312	621	

TABLE 1b - Sex Distribution (in percents)

	1975	1974	1973	All LACC - Spring 1975
Male	46.0	49.1	49.8	48.5
Female	54.0	50.9	50.2	51.5

5/6

TABLE 2 - Semester at L.A.C.C. (in percents)

	1st Semester	2nd Semester	3rd Semester	4th Semester	5th Semester or more	Total Respondents
Males	42.9	28.6	14.3	2.0	12.3	147
Females	21.2	34.7	18.2	14.1	11.8	170
1 Black	38.6	26.7	16.8	8.9	8.9	101
9 Caucasian	25.7	35.9	15.4	6.8	16.2	117
7 Mexican-American	37.5	37.5	12.5	8.3	4.2	24
5 Oriental	26.3	26.3	18.4	15.8	13.2	38
Other	29.7	35.1	18.9	5.4	10.8	37
All 1975	31.2	31.9	16.4	8.5	12.0	317
All 1974	33.3	30.7	13.6	9.9	12.3	463
All 1973	27.4	31.1	19.4	11.7	15.3	554
Entire school Spring 1970 (day)	18.7	32.5	15.5	20.4	12.9	

TABLE 3 - Employment During Semester in percents)

	Not Employed	1/4 time	1/2 time	3/4 time	Full time	Total Respondents
Males	49.0	7.2	4.6	11.8	27.5	153
Females	47.5	10.6	10.6	6.7	24.6	179
1 Black	56.0	8.0	7.0	5.0	30.0	100
9 Caucasian	43.1	10.0	10.0	13.1	23.9	130
7 Mexican-American	68.0	16.0	4.0	4.0	8.0	25
5 Oriental	53.7	7.3	7.3	7.3	24.4	41
Other	41.7	5.6	5.6	11.1	36.1	36
All 1975	48.2	9.0	7.8	9.0	25.9	332
All 1974	38.8	37.5	14.0	5.8	33.6	464
All 1973	39.2	7.2	14.5	7.2	31.8	581
Entire school Spring 1972 (day)	32.9	12.8	28.0	8.9	17.5	

TABLE 4 - Transfer Plans (in percents)

	Yes	No	Not sure	Total Respondents
Males	37.7	28.8	33.6	146
Females	43.7	24.7	31.7	158
1 Black	40.4	33.0	26.6	94
9 Caucasia	40.0	24.6	35.5	110
7 Mexican-American	4.6	45.5	50.0	22
5 Oriental	65.8	13.2	21.1	38
Other	40.0	20.0	40.0	40
All 1975	40.8	26.7	32.6	304
All 1974	39.8	26.1	34.1	437
All 1973	42.8	25.4	31.9	535
Entire school Fall 1971 (day)	68.9	10.4	18.9	

TABLE 5 - Approximate GPA at LACC (in percents)

	A	B	C	D	F	Total Respondents
Males	11.6	42.6	43.4	0.8	1.6	129
Females	13.2	42.4	39.6	3.5	1.4	144
1 Black	7.5	30.0	56.3	3.8	2.5	80
9 Caucasian	22.3	44.7	30.1	1.0	2.0	103
7 Mexican-American	5.6	33.3	61.1	0.0	0.0	18
5 Oriental	2.8	58.3	38.9	0.0	0.0	36
Other	8.3	52.8	33.3	5.6	0.0	36
All 1975	12.5	42.5	41.4	2.2	1.5	273
All 1974	9.6	41.1	46.8	2.5	N/A	355
All 1973	9.0	39.7	47.2	27.1	1.4	443

TABLE 6 - Plans to Return to LACC
(in percents)

	Yes	No	Not sure	Total Respondents
Males	50.7	13.5	35.9	156
Females	56.2	10.8	33.0	185
1 Black	59.1	10.5	30.5	105
9 Caucasian	48.8	15.7	35.5	121
7 Mexican-American	50.0	4.2	45.8	24
5 Oriental	53.3	8.9	30.4	46
Other	56.5	13.1	30.4	46
All 1975	53.7	12.0	34.3	341
All 1974	51.0	16.1	33.0	467
All 1973	48.0	16.0	36.0	586

TABLE 7 - How well Served by LACC
(in percents)

	Excellently	Adequately	Poorly	Total Respondents
Males	53.3	44.0	2.7	150
Females	45.7	52.5	1.9	162
1 Black	40.4	57.5	2.1	94
9 Caucasian	56.1	42.1	1.8	114
7 Mexican-American	59.1	36.4	4.6	22
5 Oriental	42.9	52.4	4.8	42
Other	52.5	47.5	0.0	40
All 1975	49.4	48.4	2.3	312
All 1974	47.9	47.9	4.2	449
All 1973	50.2	47.2	2.7	566

TABLE 8 - Reasons for Withdrawal, by Ethnic Background (in percents)

11/01

Reason	Black				Caucasian				Mex-American				Oriental				Other			
	1975	1974	1973	1972	1975	1974	1973	1972	1975	1974	1973	1972	1975	1974	1973	1972	1975	1974	1973	1972
Armed Forces	1.9	3.6	2.4	0.0	0.8	1.1	0.8	1.3	0.0	---	2.4	1.8	0.0	4.2	4.3	5.6	0.0	---	1.3	---
Insufficient funds	18.1	16.6	20.0	21.4	12.6	9.2	12.4	17.6	12.0	5.1	7.3	16.4	2.0	6.9	3.2	4.2	16.7	12.5	5.3	---
Personal illness or accident	13.3	8.6	10.3	17.3	15.8	14.1	12.2	10.5	8.0	20.5	17.1	17.3	8.2	5.6	5.4	4.2	12.5	10.9	10.7	---
Family illness or accident	6.7	10.8	12.4	8.7	8.7	4.3	6.1	5.9	8.0	2.6	7.3	3.6	4.1	5.6	5.4	6.9	4.2	10.9	8.0	---
Transportation	6.7	5.0	6.7	8.1	4.7	3.2	4.5	5.0	4.0	12.8	7.3	14.5	2.0	1.4	5.4	1.4	8.3	---	4.0	---
Full-time work	32.4	26.2	32.1	32.4	26.8	31.9	37.3	32.6	24.0	30.8	24.4	38.0	26.5	19.4	35.5	33.3	20.8	35.9	21.3	---
Another school	8.6	13.7	16.4	8.1	10.2	11.9	10.1	9.6	12.0	10.3	12.2	12.7	20.4	18.1	28.0	22.2	10.4	14.1	17.3	---
Schedule	2.9	4.3	4.9	6.4	3.2	5.4	4.5	3.8	20.0	14.4	20.4	7.3	8.2	1.4	11.8	5.6	2.1	6.3	4.0	---
Poor Grades	3.8	5.8	6.1	6.9	4.7	2.7	3.2	5.0	0.0	5.1	4.9	12.7	0.0	6.9	7.5	6.9	6.3	4.7	2.7	---
Family moving	5.7	5.8	4.2	3.5	4.7	4.3	3.2	5.9	4.0	7.7	2.4	5.4	2.0	---	2.2	2.8	4.2	4.7	5.3	---
Job hours	20.0	16.6	17.0	11.0	11.0	14.6	15.0	12.6	4.0	14.4	9.8	10.9	16.3	11.1	12.9	13.9	14.6	15.6	13.3	---
No study time	11.4	10.1	12.7	12.1	6.3	15.7	18.2	14.2	4.0	5.1	4.9	18.2	10.2	20.3	12.9	12.5	8.3	10.9	10.2	---
Personal problems	25.7	32.4	18.2	26.0	22.8	23.2	12.6	22.2	12.0	30.8	24.9	36.4	18.4	27.8	18.3	22.2	41.7	17.2	20.0	---

TABLE 8a - Reasons for Withdrawal, by Sex
(in percents)

Reason	1975			1974			1973			1972		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Going into Armed Forces	0.6	1.1	0.9	3.3	0.8	2.0	3.6	0.3	1.9	1.8	1.1	1.5
Insufficient funds	16.0	11.0	13.3	13.9	8.3	11.0	14.6	13.1	13.9	20.3	12.2	16.6
Personal illness or accident	14.1	12.1	13.0	9.0	13.8	11.4	9.7	11.9	10.8	10.2	14.0	11.9
Family illness or accident	4.9	8.4	6.8	6.1	7.9	7.0	6.5	9.3	7.9	8.3	5.2	6.9
Transportation	6.8	4.2	5.4	3.7	3.9	3.8	4.9	5.8	5.3	5.2	8.9	6.9
Going to work full-time	28.8	26.2	27.4	29.4	28.0	28.7	37.5	28.2	32.9	36.0	28.0	32.4
Going to another school	9.2	13.1	11.3	13.5	13.4	13.4	18.5	16.0	17.2	9.5	12.9	10.1
Unhappy with schedule	4.3	5.2	4.8	6.9	3.9	5.4	6.2	4.8	5.5	3.7	6.6	5.0
Poor grades	4.3	3.2	3.7	4.9	4.3	4.6	4.5	4.8	4.7	5.5	8.1	6.7
Family moving away	5.5	3.7	4.5	2.9	5.9	4.4	3.2	3.9	3.5	4.9	5.2	5.0
Conflicting hours with job	16.0	13.1	14.4	17.6	12.2	14.8	17.5	11.9	14.7	13.5	9.6	11.7
Not enough time to study	8.6	8.4	8.5	13.1	13.8	13.4	14.9	13.5	14.2	12.9	15.1	13.9
Personal problems	23.9	25.7	24.9	22.9	29.5	26.3	21.4	25.6	23.5	24.3	25.3	24.9

TABLE 9 - Reasons for Withdrawal, Rank Order
Spring, 1975

Reason	Rank Order	Male	Female	Black	Caucasian	Mexican-American	Oriental	Other
Going to work full-time	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
Personal problem	2	2	2	2	2	4.3	3	1
Conflicting hours with job	3	3.5	3.5	3	5	10.25	4	4
Insufficient funds	4	3.5	6	4	4	4.3	9.7	3
Personal illness or accident	5	5	5	5	3	6.5	6.5	5
Going to another school	6	6	3.5	7	6	4.3	2	6
Not enough time to study	7	7	7.5	6	8	10.25	5	7.5
Family illness or accident	8	10	7.5	8.5	7	6.5	8	10.5
Transportation problem	9	8	10	8.5	10.3	10.25	9.7	7.5
Unhappy with schedule	10	11.5	9	12	12	2	6.5	12
Family moving away	11	9	11	10	10.3	10.25	9.7	10.5
Poor grades	12	11.5	12.0	11	10.3	---	---	9
Going into Armed Forces	13	13	13	13	13	---	---	---

TABLE 9a - Reasons for Withdrawal, Comparison of Rank Orders for 1975, 1974, 1973, and 1972

Reason	All '75	All '74	All '73	All '72
Going to work full-time	1	1	1	1
Personal problem	2	2	2	2
Conflicting hours with job.....	3	3	4	6
Insufficient funds.....	4	7	6	3
Personal illness or accident.....	5	6	7	5
Going to another school	6	4.5	3	7
Not enough time to study.....	7	4.5	5	4
Family illness or accident.....	8	8	8	8.5
Transportation problem.....	9	12	10	8.5
Unhappy with schedule.....	10	9	9	11.5
Family moving away	11	11	12	11.5
Poor grades	12	10	11	10
Going into Armed Forces.....	13	13	13	13

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

This study examines the responses of the 1,474 students who withdrew during the Spring 1975, Spring 1974, and Spring 1973 semesters and who completed the exit questionnaire.

(1) In comparing sex and ethnic background of the withdrawees with the total day student population for Spring 1975, 65% of the withdrawees were of non-Caucasian background, about the same as that found in the student body, and 46% of the withdrawees were male, compared with a student body which is about 48% male.

(2) In the Spring 1975, of the males who withdrew, slightly more than 40% were in their 1st semester while about 15% were in their 4th semester or later. Of the females who withdrew during the same period, about 20% were in their 1st semester while about 25% were in their 4th semester or later.

(3) About 48% of the withdrawees had not been employed during the Spring 1975 semester. Only approximately 26% were employed full-time.

(4) About 40% of the withdrawees in the Spring 1975 semester indicated that they planned to transfer to a four year college, with one-fourth saying they did not intend to transfer and one-third not sure. These proportions have been about the same for the last four years. Corresponding figures for the entire student body were 69%, 11%, and 19% respectively in 1972 which are consistent with a report "Through the Open Door, A Study of Patterns and Performance in California's Community Colleges" prepared by the California Postsecondary Education Commission, December 1975. This suggests that these withdrawees were generally not as certain about their future educational plans as other students.

(5) About 97% of the withdrawees felt that they were adequately or better served by the college with more than half of these rating the service excellent. About half of the withdrawees indicated that they expected to return to the college.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS (continued)

(6) For all the last four years, the most often stated reason for withdrawal was going to work full-time, followed by a personal problem. Conflicting hours with a job was the third most often stated reason for withdrawal in 1975 and 1974. Poor grades has never ranked higher than 10th from the top (out of 13) in the last four years and in 1975 was 12th (out of 13).

(7) Analysis by ethnic background showed some differences. "Insufficient funds," was generally stated less often (in terms of percents) by Orientals than by other ethnic groups while "going to another school," was stated more often (in terms of percents) as a reason for withdrawal by Orientals than by the other ethnic groups. Conflicting job hours, personal problems, and insufficient funds were stated reasons for withdrawal by Blacks relatively more often than by the other ethnic groups.

(8) Analysis by sex showed some differences. In 1972 and 1973, more males stated (in percents) "going to work full-time," as a reason for withdrawal than females, but in 1974 and 1975 the differences (in percents) were not appreciable. For the past four years "personal problems," has been a stated reason for withdrawal by females more often than by males (in terms of percents) while for "insufficient funds" and "conflicting hours with job," the opposite is true.

L.A.C.C. COUNSELING CENTER, SPRING, 1973
STUDENT WITHDRAWAL FORM DATE_____

(Please complete and give to Counselor. Omit any question you do not care to answer)

NAME_____
(Last) (First) (Middle)

Sex: M___ F ___ Semester at LACC: 1st__ 2nd__ 3rd___ 4th____ 5th _____

Ethnic background:

Black_____ Caucasian _____ Mexican American ____ Oriental ____ Other ____

Have you been employed this semester? Yes__ No__ If yes, how much time:

1/4 time_____ 1/2 time_____ 3/4 time _____ full-time_____

College major_____

Do you plan to transfer to a 4 year college? Yes___ No___ Not sure___

Approximate grade average to date: A__A-__ B+__ B__ B-__C+__C__C-__D+__D__F__

Do you plan to return to LACC? Yes____ No____ Not sure____

Please check one or more of the following reasons for your withdrawal.

____ going into Armed forces
____ insufficient funds
____ Personal illness or accident
____ family illness or accident
____ transportation problem
____ going to work full-time
(Have you found the job yet? Yes__ No__)
____ going to another school
____ unhappy with schedule
____ poor grades
____ family moving away
____ conflicting hours with job
____ not enough time to study
____ personal problem, prefer not to explain
____ personal problem as follows:

_____

_____

Other (please describe)_____

_____

_____

How well did L.A. C.C. serve you? excellently ____ adequately ____ Poorly____

Please write any comment on the back of this sheet.

Counselor's signature_____